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CAXTON SURGERY https://www.caxtonsurgery.co.uk/index.aspx	01691 654646
Citizens Advice Bureau, Castle View	03444 991100
CORBET SCHOOL www.corbetschool.net	01939 260296
DIAL-A-RIDE, Volunteer Bureau and Qube Arts centre (main switchboard Osw.Community Action)	01691 656882
ELECTRICITY Scottish Power (Manweb as was)	0800 001 5400
KNOCKIN Medical Practice	01691 682203
Methodist Chapel: Revd Julia Skitt Methodist Hall (Bookings)	07810 360778 01691 611733
NHS Out of Hours Service	111
Orthopaedic Hospital	01691 404000
Parish Council email: westfeltonpc@gmail.com https://www.westfeltonparish.co.uk/	
POLICE, West Mercia Non-Emergency number	101
Oswestry Police Station	0300 333 3000
Safer Neighbourhood team—email: oswestryc.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk	
Pradoe Church: Chairman: Andrew Kenyon	01691 610218
PUNCH BOWL	01691 610322
QUEENS HEAD RESTAURANT	01691 610255
RAIL STATION, GOBOWEN	01691 681010
Roman Catholic Church: Fr Philip Holy Mass Saturday 6:30 pm, Sunday 10 am	01691 652248
RSPCA Shropshire Branch	07703 567935
SAMARITANS	116 123
SCHOOL – West Felton C E School	01691 610388
SHOP: West Felton Stores	01691 610863
SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Anti-Social Report Line	0345 6789000 0345 6789020
Your Shrops Councillor: Steve Charmley email: steve.charmley@shropshire.gov.uk	01691 587958
St Michael's Church: Revd Suzan Williams	01691 674948
Church Warden: Dr Michael Davie	01691 610612
St. Chad's: Chapel Warden: Mrs A Hampson	01691 610845
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - Secretary	01691 610357
VILLAGE HALL Bookings	01691 610629
WASP Problems Emergency number	01691 831251 / 07772 006994
WATER - Severn Trent Water Authority	0800 783 4444
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: Gillian Sturgess	01691 611811

Year 30

SEPTEMBER 2023

ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON

www.westfeltonmagazine.co.uk

All welcome
HARVEST SUPPER
West Felton Village Hall
7pm Friday
22nd September



Details page 23

WHAT'S ON

Parish Council	Second Tues of the month, 7:30 Methodist Hall
West Felton Walkers	10am Mondays, Punch Bowl EXCEPT... see page
Pilates Class	Tuesday mornings: Two sessions: 9-10am & 10:15-11:15am Need to book on line GYMATCH.
Tai Chi	Tuesday 2pm to 3pm, Village Hall
Badminton	Every Tues evening: 8pm to 9:30pm. Village Hall
Baby & Toddler	9:15- 10:30 Termtime Tuesdays at the school
Felton Flexors	Wednesday mornings 9:30am to 10:30am Village Hall
Table Tennis	Thursday 7:30pm Village Hall
WI	2nd Thursday of the month 7pm Village Hall
Short Mat Bowls	contact Glynnis on 610336
Royal British Legion	8pm Meeting, Punch Bowl first Monday of the month except Bank holidays then second Monday.
Bumps, Babies And Tots	8:45am - 10:45 Fortnightly Termtime Fridays at Methodist Schoolroom Email rev.julia@mail.com

3rd Sept	2:30pm - METHODIST CHAPEL HARVEST FESTIVAL	11
7th	10am COFFEE MORNING Methodist Schoolroom	11
22nd	7pm HARVEST SUPPER, Village Hall	23
14 Oct	7pm VILLAGE HALL CRAFT FAIR on Saturday	13
28 Oct	7pm HARVEST AUCTION , The Punch Bowl	
Oct/Nov	Remembrance events	
1 Dec	CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH-ON	
13 Dec	7pm CHRISTMAS BINGO	



John the WASP Problems man has changed his mobile number - see pack page. Emergency number 01691 831251 / 07772 006994

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The Post Office is located in the entrance lobby of the village hall. Due to a restructure by the Post Office head office, the Outreach Post Office hours for West Felton have been changed. **The new opening time from the 5th of June is Wednesdays only 9:30am till 11am.** Please keep supporting it.

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Round and About West Felton

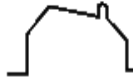
Articles/advertisement amendments for inclusion in next issue
to Editor by email (preferred) or phone

Last day for submission of copy: Deadline for content changes 10th September 2023

Editor: Colleen Hughes

**Advertising Rates
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Tel 01691 610300	Quarter page	£50
colleenhughes748@btinternet.com	Half page	£75
	Full page	£125



WEST FELTON STORES

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The Rectory, Castle Street, Whittington,
01691 674 948

Services in West Felton Parish:

St Michael's, West Felton : 9:30am each Sunday

St Chad's, Haughton : 9:30am on the second Sunday of each month

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals:

Please arrange with The Rector:

Rev'd Suzan Williams **01691 674 948**
or the Churchwarden:

Dr Michael Davie **0691 610 612**

Pradoe Church

Services - at 10:30am

All are Welcome - Tea, Coffee and Biscuits served after the service

Sunday 3 September	Family Service
Sunday 1 October	Harvest Festival
Sunday 5 November	Family Service
Sunday 3 December	Family Service
Wednesday 13 December	7pm Carol Service
Monday 25 December	Christmas Day Service

Christenings, Weddings and Funerals:

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WEST FELTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to West Felton Parish Council: **Mrs Rosemary WOOD**

Parish Office: 5 Newtown Gardens

Baschurch Shrewsbury SY4 2HF Tel 01939 262 881

Email: westfeltonpc@gmail.com

Website: www.westfeltonparish.co.uk

Chairman Cllr David WALKER 01691 897 117 (Rep Helicopter Noise Group)

Vice-Chairman Cllr Kerry GROVE 01691 611 776 (Rep SALC Area Comm).

Cllr Carole COLES 01691 610 225

Cllr David CURTIS 01691 610 665 (Rep WF Primary School)

Cllr Marian HESKETH 01691 610 441 (Rep for Village Hall).

Cllr John HOUGHTON 01691 610 834

Cllr Chris JONES 01691 610 354

Cllr Pat MABE 01691 610 400

Cllr Ed NICHOLAS 01691 610 230 (Rep ABP committee)

Cllr Ozcan OZAGIR 07879 330 598

Cllr John THORNHILL 07714 759 466

Shropshire Councillor Cllr Steve CHARMLEY 01691 650 488

WEST FELTON PARISH COUNCIL Update August 2023

This report covers the last couple of months and then our next update will be following our September meeting, as like other local bodies, we don't have a meeting in August.

Carnival - Firstly, the Parish Council would like to extend their thanks and congratulations to the carnival committee for organising such a wonderful carnival back in July. The parade was wonderful with three marching bands and so many local people and organisations taking part. Even the rain during the afternoon didn't dampen everyone's spirits and we thoroughly enjoyed the day. Looking forward to next year already.

Alma Close Section 106 monies - We are very pleased to say that we have finally received the monies (£10,003.98) from Shropshire council in relation to the Alma Close situation we previously reported on. We're now looking into costings for play equipment to enhance the current playing field and will update when there's more information. This had all been outstanding for many years and once again, we'd like to thank the residents of Alma Close for their help in bringing the matter to a satisfactory outcome.

Conservation Area - We were delighted that following on from two public con-

(Continued on page 9)



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Non emergency number : 101 web: www.westmercia.police.uk
Email: oswestrys.snt@westmercia/pnn.police.uk Twitter: @OsCops
Local police Officers : PC Roy Alderwick (see above), Oswestry South : (not to be used to report incidents) PCSO Stuart Carroll 07970 544372.

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(Continued from page 7)

sultations and our work over many months with Shropshire Council, that our plans for the West Felton Conservation Area were finally approved at the council's July's cabinet meeting. This will go a long way to helping preserve and protect the wonderful heritage and history in the parish and helping to ensure that future development and changes to existing buildings are completed in a manner sympathetic to their surroundings.

Second Defibrillator - Following representations from residents, we've been looking into providing a second defibrillator to be situated in Grimpo, and following quotations and after ensuring it can be placed in a suitably prominent position, we're pleased to say we have agreed to go ahead with this. It will provide peace of mind for parish residents living further away from the original defibrillator situated on the village hall, and we're pleased to be able to add such a valuable asset.

West Felton Primary School - As work on our fabulous village school progresses, we were very pleased at our July meeting to be able to approve releasing a sum of £50,000 of the CIL Neighbourhood Fund money to Shropshire Council to go towards to costs of the improvements. This had previously been agreed in principle by the PC, and we were just waiting for the request from the council to come in. We're very much looking forward to seeing the finished additions and changes to the school when the work is completed.

We were also very pleased to be able to award a grant of £250 to West Felton Primary School to help with their Summer Learning and Play initiative.

Additional Items - At our annual parish meeting, a member of the public raised concerns about how dark the approach to the road bridge in The Avenue can be and how off-putting and worrisome this is to residents who've been attending functions in the village and need to walk home. At our July meeting we agreed to obtain quotes for the supply, installation and connection of an LED streetlight and will update you all when we have more information.

We have also over the last couple of months discussed various planning applications lodged with Shropshire Council and details of these, as well as minutes from all our meetings, are available on our website: www.westfeltonparish.co.uk

If you'd like to contact us, our email is: westfeltonpc@gmail.com, and if you'd like to come to any of our meetings you're very welcome, either to raise matters you feel we should discuss, or just to observe. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 12th September at 7.30 pm in the Methodist hall.

Cllr. Kerry Grove, Vice Chair, West Felton Parish Council

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West Felton Methodist Chapel and Schoolroom - opposite the playing field



Minister: Rev Julia Skitt 07810 360778
 Secretary Christine Curtis 01691 610665

SERVICES 2023

SEPTEMBER

3rd Harvest Festival at 2.30 p.m. led by Rev. Julia Skitt
 10th At Oswestry at 10.45 a.m.

17th Songs of Praise

24th Prof. Mike Jackson

OCTOBER

1st Rev. Graham Horsley – Holy Communion

8th Ref. Jon Chesworth

15th Church Anniversary at 2.30 p.m. with Ruth Shoreman

22nd At Oswestry at 10.45 a.m.

29th Mr. Geoff Nankivell

NOVEMBER

5th Songs of Praise

12th Remembrance Day – service at St. Michael's

19th At Oswestry at 10.45 a.m.

26th Songs of Praise

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Rector's Ramblings

Rev Suzan Williams

I know many of us feel as if this year is speeding away at a rate of knots and frequently on visits to our older members I am reminded that the older you get the faster time seems to pass.

However I was still not prepared for the answerphone message asking me at the beginning of August when the Harvest service for Houghton would be!

July has proved to be a bit of a disappointment in terms of the amount of rain and lack of sunshine that we've had. However there is still so much to be grateful for with fires ravaging Greece and the canary islands and holiday makers and local residents needing to be evacuated rapidly. I cannot help but be reminded of how frail and vulnerable life can be. Just this last week from the 26-30th of July I had the privilege of being on the Kent showground with around nine and a half thousand other followers of Jesus. The only way I can describe it to you is that its like Glastonbury but for Christians. With various venues, styles of worship, on the whole more modern and charismatic in style. But at the same time the Luminosity venue was running for young people and it was so encouraging to hear the reports day by day of young people being set free from crippling anxiety and fear. And finding a freedom to be who God has always intended them to be.

It seems to me that in our culture we are constantly being told what to think, how to act and who to align our political allegiances to.

It seems to be that if we cared more about those right on our doorstep and further afield our world would be a much kinder and generous place.

When asked directly which were the most important of the commandments without hesitation he said "Love the Lord your God with all heart, with your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength and the second is like namely this love your neighbour as yourself."

As we seek to be the best versions of ourselves that we can be, showing that love, care and concern for others. We can ask God to help us and to also open our eyes to the needs of those around us and further afield.

Every Blessing, Suzan

WORDS OF WISDOM: Happiness is a choice. For every minute you're angry, you lose 60 seconds of your own happiness.

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DANIEL JAMES

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WEST FELTON ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR



West Felton village hall
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Saturday 14th October
11am - 3pm

Wow, who knew? What a fabulous array of talent we saw at the Arts & Crafts Fair in the village hall last year!

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Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

Making changes

Most of us are guilty of keeping things in the garden that are long past their sell-by date. I have a theory that not parting with old plants is in some way related to growing old oneself and not wanting to be removed. Regardless, it can be a difficult decision to eject an old friend, but sometimes it is the only sensible action. The July garden assessment that I advocate doing is a good time to note what should go. September is then the time to review the notes made in July. If the review confirms that a plant should be removed then there should be no backing down.

September also marks what some consider to be the start of the gardening year, and certainly when a start can be made on removals, replacements and revamping. When a plant or two are removed because of size and old age, the effect can be a revelation, resulting in a completely new design, look and feel to the area. One such happening occurred in our garden last year when we finally admitted that two conifers were really too large and also had a moth-eaten look resulting from their age, and were indeed most definitely past the best before date. Out came the chain saw and the result was a new vista and, with replanting, a much lighter, fresher look to the space.

The beginning of September is when apple and pear picking starts. Apples

are simple, most come off easily when ripe, although with some varieties they need to be stored for several weeks to reach their best. Even those that ripen early can generally be kept some time in a cool place. Pears are not easy and have to be picked at just the right time before they are fully ripe but not too early. I have never found any of the suggestions to judge the moment to be infallible and rely on what can only be called intuition. They then need to be stored in a cool spot and inspected frequently.

If there are branches overhanging paths of encroaching too much on other plants, now is the time to prune them before they spring up after losing weight through leaf fall. Now is also the time to apply lawn sand just before it rains if the grass is infested with moss. This is followed a week or two later by scarifying and spiking. In recent years I have taken a gamble and sown loose leaf lettuce in modules in a cold frame to be transplanted in a cold glasshouse later. The success rate has been encouraging. Around the middle of the month is when I make a start on the autumn/winter pruning, commencing with ivies trained on walls. We are then into the winter programme with the first steps taken to get the planned new projects and renovations underway. The earlier the start the more done before any severe weather. ♦



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from Eileen & the CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

I'm writing this on the 30th July and I can honestly say looking back that our carnival day, despite the downpour, was the best Sunday of the month.

I'm sure you will agree with me that it was a wonderful day, even though we could have done with more floats, the procession was very good with a good assortment of people taking part.

The main attraction were the Wirral Pipers and they certainly didn't let us down when they played all through the rain, everybody I have spoken to really enjoyed them, and they enjoyed our day and would love to come back.

I hope you agree that there was plenty going on all afternoon on the stage and lots of stalls to browse around. Porthywaen Band and Jacob's group kept the music flowing and Alfie Edwards on stage.

The winning floats in the children section were: 1st 'Splish Splash' Sharon Arthur's Childcare, with the School 2nd with 'At the seaside'. Adults: 1st WI with 'Swan Lake'; 2nd 'Batman and Robin'; 3rd the Canlett family with 'We're off to the carnival'. Thank you all for taking part, good fun isn't it!!!!

Next, a big thank you to everyone in the village that supported us by donating prizes for the tombola stall and buying draw tickets. The committee work hard all year to put this on for the village and when we see so many people attending it makes it all worth while.

You can see it all again on the video that Chris Smith has made; to view go to **WFCarnival2023 on Vimeo**, thanks for that Chris.

We can all have a rest for a month or two now until the Christmas Tree Switch-on, which will be Friday 1st December - a great date to start off the Christmas celebrations.

Thanks again to everyone, Eileen Hanmer

Thank You

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WEST FELTON CofE SCHOOL BEATING THE SUMMER SLIDE!

West Felton teachers go the extra mile (as usual).

Congratulations to Helen and all the staff.



Headteacher Helen and her staff have launched a scheme for children to read for at least 10 minutes a day when on their summer holidays.

This will be rewarded with picnics on the school field.

In an interview with the Advertiser they said: "At West Felton CofE Primary School, we are trying our very best to beat the summer slide by promoting regular reading throughout the summer holidays."

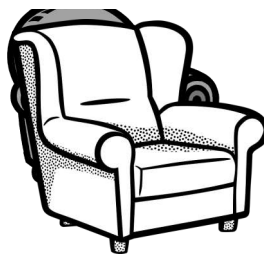
What is the summer slide? Children are out of school for six long weeks over the summer and without regular practise and application, they can easily forget the fundamental skill of reading. The aim is for pupils to read aloud every day for at least 10 minutes. This small but regular commitment will make an invaluable difference to reading progress, and will increase the likelihood of future success and well-being.

Throughout the summer holiday the teachers will host a series of picnics for the children who have completed the reading commitment. The picnic will be a free, fun, light-hearted session of games and activities, an opportunity to stay in touch and a place to refresh and exchange books.

It is hoped that this will not only combat the summer slide but will provide a welcome play date for children and parents over the long summer holidays. At these sessions there will be healthy and nutritious snacks and prizes such as books and comics.

The spokesman thanked the community for their support. The donors were: **Gentech, Triccas Family, Red Square Garage, NFU Mutual Oswestry, Tesco, Ellesmere, The British Ironworks, Garner, Pugh, Sinclair, Suckleys, Aico, West Felton Parish Council and St. Michael's Church.** Their generosity means each child will get a book as well as all the other goodies. ♦

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Carnival 2023 accounts

Budget Overview	Income	Costs	Balance
Carnival Items	£ 5,794.54	-£ 1,079.27	£ 4,715.27
Entertainment & Prizes		-£ 2,221.50	-£ 2,221.50
Operational Costs		-£ 1,599.80	-£ 1,599.80
	£ 5,794.54	-£4,900.57	£ 893.97

Carnival Items	Income	Costs	Balance
Gate	£ 1,290.52		£ 1,290.52
Bar	£ 1,493.33	£ 1,079.27	£ 414.06
Bric Brac	£ 203.10		£ 203.10
Bottle Tombola	£ 319.00		£ 319.00
Tombola	£ 209.45		£ 209.45
Grand Draw	£ 1,285.85		£ 1,285.85
Auction	£ 185.00		£ 185.00
Donations	£ 346.19		£ 346.19
Stalls inc. Fair	£ 462.10		£ 462.10

Other Costs	Income	Costs	Balance
Entertainment		£ 1,870.00	-£ 1,870.00
Prizes		£ 351.50	-£ 351.50
Operational Costs		£ 1,599.80	-£ 1,599.80

Totals	£ 5,794.54	£ 4,900.57	£ 893.97
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(Continued from page 37)

also established an Ecclesiastical Committee consisting of 15 Members of the House of Lords and 15 Members of parliament. There is also a Second church Estates Commissioner who is an MP and answerable in parliament for the Church of England. Crucially however parliament reserved for itself the right to comment on items discussed in General Synod and also the ability to bring in legislation.

Since 1919, parliament has notably intervened in the church's affairs on several occasions. In 1928 parliament refused to authorise the use of a new prayer book to replace the 1662 prayer book (which still remains legal). More recently parliament threw out a bill that would have enabled the church to remove a priest from his house without the priest being able to defend himself. Parliament also had much to say about

the appointment of bishops and the ordination of priests divorced or married to a divorcee when the previous spouse was still alive. Appointments of Bishops and Archbishops still have to be agreed by the government.

Most recently a bill has been introduced in parliament which promises to make trouble for the Church of England. The bill seeks to authorise the marriage of a same sex couple in a church by a member of the clergy, though it does go on to say that no clergy should be forced to do this. Even a blessing for a same sex couple in church, let alone a marriage, is controversial in the Church at present. The bill is unlikely to proceed because of lack of time. It does however have some cross party support and once again parliament appears to be at variance with the Church of England. ♦



West Felton Walking Group

We meet at 10.00 am Mondays at the Punch Bowl car park

EXCEPT on the first Monday of the month when departure is 9:30 to allow time to travel to our chosen destination for the away day walk.

New members always welcome.

Walk leaders:-

Mike Bossen 01691 610623

Hilary Iles 01691 610707

John and Eileen Hanmer

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SUSTAINABLE WARMTH PROGRAMME - GRANTS



Shropshire Council is inviting expressions of interest from residents and landlords to the Sustainable Warmth Programme.

Grants are available for a range of insulation and heating measures.

Grants are currently available only to 'off gas' homes - properties that are not heated by mains gas.

The scheme follows a whole house approach - this means that we must look to install fabric measures (i.e., windows, doors, insulation) first, before changing or improving heating systems.

This is not a crisis/emergency scheme. The grant process does take time. Successful applicants will require several different assessments before measures are installed.

Works must be carried out by the Council's procured contractors. We cannot fund works retrospectively.

Residents need to meet certain qualifying criteria, and your property will also need to meet certain strict criteria. All works are subject to survey and funding availability.

Qualifying Criteria

There are three qualification routes:

Full details of the criteria are available online at the Shropshire Council web site.

Route 1 - Households in receipt of means-tested benefits - see full details online.

Route 2 - Annual household income threshold under certain circumstances. If you are unsure about how to calculate your household income, you can contact the Keep Shropshire Warm team for support and advice by calling 0800 112 3743 or emailing ksw@mea.org.uk

Route 3 - Flexible eligibility. Some households can qualify for grant support if they receive a council tax rebate (excluding the single person rebates) have a long-term health condition and or disability that is affected by a cold home; or receive free school meals, see full details online.

If you meet the criteria, register your interest in this scheme. The Sustainable Warmth Scheme form is available on the Shropshire Council web site (see below). Once you have submitted your form, an advisor will contact you to discuss the next steps. If residents require support with their application, they can contact the free and impartial energy advice service, **Keep Shropshire Warm**, on 0800 112 3743. If you would prefer a paper copy of this form, please request this through Keep Shropshire Warm.

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/housing/private-sector-housing/affordable-warmth-and-energy-efficiency/sustainable-warmth-shropshire-expression-of-interest/>

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CHURCH AND STATE

A recent private member's bill in the Church of England recently has highlighted the rôle of parliament in the regulation of the established church. Until 1534 the relationship between church and state had been one of mutual distrust, with each keeping a close eye on the other. Occasionally problems arose when one side tried to take over too much power as in the Thomas à Beckett affair.

The breach from Rome in 1534 over a marriage annulment led to Henry VIII becoming the supreme governor of the Church of England on earth. Thence forward the state began to take a prime rôle in the church. Protestantism prevailed over Catholicism, but other factions existed. James I, himself a religious scholar, ordered that a new Bible be written. This he hoped would satisfy most people.

The Civil War brought another significant intrusion of government into the church. The prayer book was outlawed. Many of the priesthood including Revd Sam Hildersam, Rector of West Felton accepted or even welcomed this move. Churches became very austere. Communion tables were removed, stone altars demolished and any item identifying saints or inscriptions on silverware had to be destroyed. Vestments, organs, candlesticks and crosses were among items to be removed. At the restoration the prayer book was re-introduced and up to 2000 priests including Hildersam resigned their livings.

Hildersam went to live in Erdington, near Aston and was buried in Aston churchyard in 1674.

By the time of the 18th century the Wars of religion in Europe and the Civil war in England, had tired people of religion. The church was left much to itself, but still had much influence locally. It was the patron of about 25% of parishes and could appoint the vicar to those parishes. In the 19th and early 20th centuries the state began to divest itself of the church in Ireland (1869) and Wales (1914). More importantly in the 19th and 20th centuries parliamentary initiatives began to erode the relationship between church and people. The Education Act (1870) and progressive welfare reforms by the state began to make the population less dependent on church charity.

Before 1919 parliament had to agree all changes that the Church of England wished to make. As the influence of the church waned, so did parliament's interest in its affairs. The Archbishop of Canterbury complained that, between 1880 and 1913, fewer than 10% of church bills had been passed. In the aftermath of the First World War parliament had much to discuss without getting involved with the church. In 1919 parliament passed The Church of England Assembly (Powers) Act and set up a constitution for the Church of England to govern itself. This laid the way for the introduction of the General Synod and of Parochial Church Councils. It

(Continued on page 39)

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WEST FELTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



At the WFWI July meeting Gillian welcomed members and three visitors, Phoebe, Maureen and Angela (Angela joined that evening).

Shropshire Federation annual meeting report: Yvette thanked everyone for sending her as delegate. County chair, Glenys Wheeler, opened the meeting with thanks to all committee members and federation teams for their support, including the Advisers. Yvette having recently joined their ranks, was presented with her certificate later in the day. It was reported that overall membership retention is good and Shropshire continues to gain new members, but sadly 2022 saw five WIs suspended, though many of the members joined other local WIs. Digital change is inevitable with the recent launch of the new website, which will shortly have a ticket booking system with access given to WIs. However, members were assured they needn't worry about the digital changes, they will not be left behind! Glenys said, "Most importantly enjoy your WIs and have fun!"

In her report Yvette says, "The whole day was fabulous but the main speaker Chris Lubbe was incredible, Chris, now living in Hampshire, was one of the bodyguards who had responsibility for protecting Nelson Mandela between 1990 and 1998. His story contains themes such as fear, determination, courage, persistence and love, as well as the power of forgiveness, all in the face of blatant racial discrimination. He says "Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world."

Drawing on his incredible story, Chris kept the audience spell-bound. Growing up in a ghetto in Durban, South Africa, witnessing first-hand the brutality of apartheid became the catalyst for Chris to become an activist for democracy. He lived as a child in appalling conditions in a "Blacks/Non-whites" shanty town with no running water, sanitation or electricity.

Aged eight he wrote to Queen Elizabeth II asking for her help to end apartheid. Although the Queen replied, Chris never received it, due to strict censorship of non-whites. His letter was documented here in the UK as received, and the reply sent. Some years later Chris found out that the letter had a huge impact on the Queen, she put pressure on the government to get Nelson released from prison. Chris was honoured to be presented with his original letter by the Queen at a formal dinner held by Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace. Yvette says, "I cannot do Chris' talk justice in this short report – I am deeply honoured to have been present at this event, should you have the chance to hear Chris make sure you take the opportunity." <https://chrislubbe.co.uk/>

(Continued on page 23)

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Betty Jones with Bill Morris the driver.





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(Continued from page 21) WI

In the afternoon presentation ceremonies Yvette was pleased to receive Gobowen WI's 95th Anniversary Certificate on their behalf.

Carnival 9th July. Congratulations to all involved with the Swan Lake float which was awarded first place. After heavy rain mid-afternoon, it soon brightened up. The WFWI Tea stall featured an amazing array of cakes. Gillian says, "Thank you all bakers, and to all volunteers on the stall who did a wonderful job." This is always an important fundraiser for WFWI, as well as an invaluable community asset on Carnival day.

At the **Derwen fete**, Whittington ran the Oswestry North group gift stall and raised £286 for Derwen funds. Thanks to all who donated the gifts.

The guest speaker was **Harry Thomas** who works as a researcher for Wildlife Sense, a research and conservation organisation on the island of Kefalonia, Greece, which helps protect the endangered sea turtles. Harry is a great speaker and is so obviously passionate and enthusiastic about his work.

Members learned so much about sea turtles – did you know the scales on their heads are completely individual? – no two sea turtles have the same – and this helps them to be identified. They can live up to 60 years old, weigh up to 100kg and can swim very fast and have a ferocious bite!

Next Meeting - Thursday 14 September 7pm - when the guest speaker will be Victoria Graham -The Biscuit Club. *(I don't think this will be a talk about making biscuits - Ed.)*

HARVEST SUPPER

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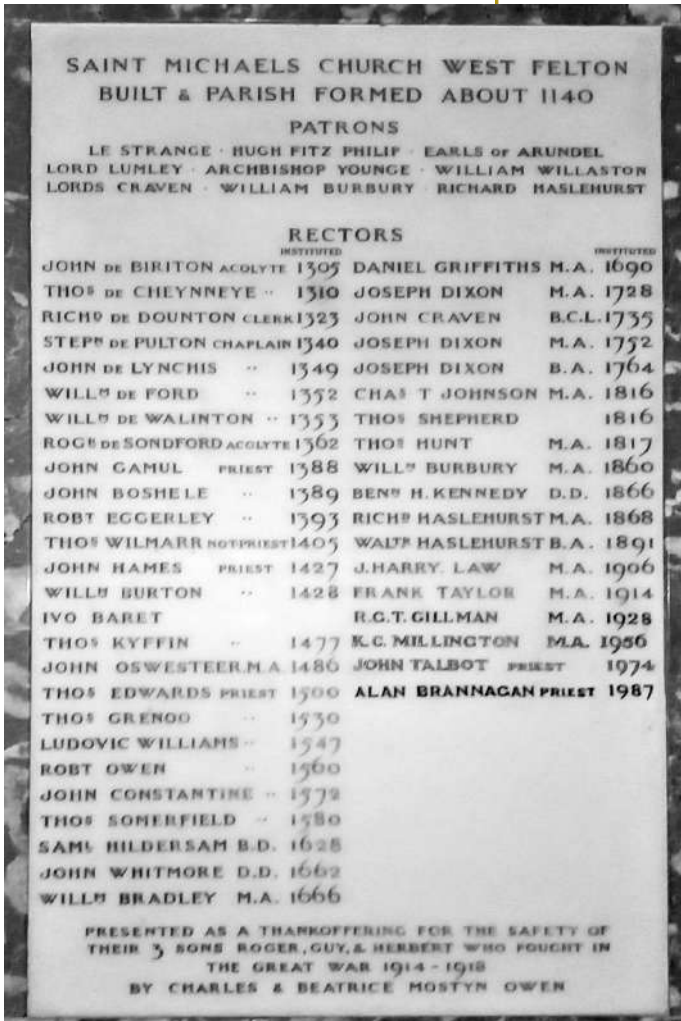
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West Felton Village Hall 100 YEARS 1923:2023



Formed as it was in about 1140, I would not presume to write about the history of West Felton Church, I leave that to the experts. However, Ann has collected some interesting stories from relatives of former Rectors. You will note from the photo Rectors can be named from 1305 to the present day.

The marble plaque in church shows Alan Brannagan was instituted in 1987, thereafter we had Prebendary David North (1996), Sarah Burton (2011) and Suzan Williams (2020) whose names have yet to be engraved.

Other priests have contributed much,

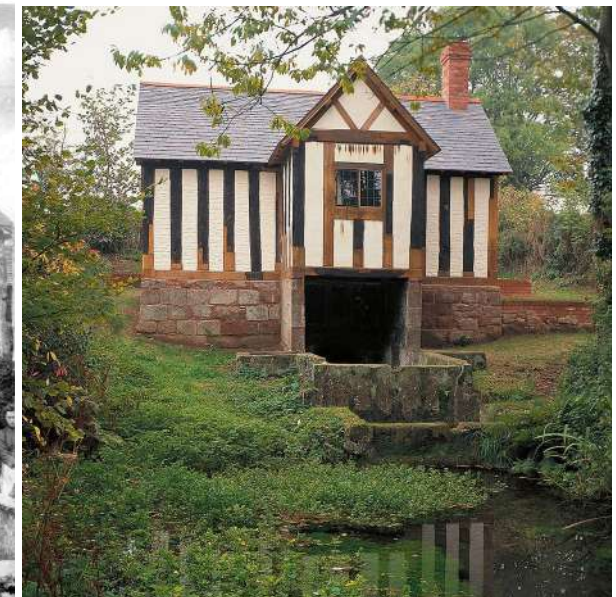
such as Brian Hayes, Tony Sparham, Jassica, not to mention Reverend Robin Martin who is always ready to help, but they were not installed as Rectors. You will note the moving dedication at the foot of the plaque: **PRESENTED AS A THANKOFFERING FOR THE SAFETY OF THEIR 3 SONS, ROGER, GUY & HERBERT WHO FOUGHT IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918 BY CHARLES & BEATRICE MOSTYN OWEN**

(Continued on page 25)

The old Rectory built 1820-30 by Rector Thos. Hunt was demolished and replaced by a new house in 1963, which in turn was demolished 2002. New houses now occupy the site.



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(Continued from page 24)

As Michael Davie told us last month, Frank Taylor was the Rector when the village hall was first opened; more about Rev Taylor later. First we hear about his predecessor, Rector Law, from notes by his son, Patrick, given to Ann by his grandson, Tim Law:

J. Harry Law, instituted 1906

"I celebrated the event by developing measles on arrival at West Felton Rectory. No main services were laid on - the water was collected from the roofs in a large tank under the kitchen yard. My father had it analysed and it was found to be 'highly contaminated with animal matter'. Apparently, the water from the church roof ran through the churchyard; later when this source of supply was corrected, the water was good, but all drinking water was still passed through Berk filters.

"There was a wide drive between the Rectory and the churchyard and just beyond its low wall was an iron-railed enclosure containing the graves of a predecessor, his wife and I think six children all of whom died young - we thought it might have been the water.

"My father had a curate who always lived in a town. One dark evening my father went to see him and found the family sitting on the stairs. They told him that the sitting room was full of smoke. He asked what they were doing about it and they said that they did not know what to do. So my father went outside and managed to open the window. Then he went into the room and turned out the oil lamp which was

smoking. This family had a donkey and cart. One day, the donkey lay down in the shafts and the mother did not know what to do. However, she saw a man hedging, and ran to him saying 'My donkey's dead'. The man went over to the donkey, gave it a prod with his pitchfork and it hastily got to its feet!

"When my father got home one day, he was given the news that Morris, the sexton, had been gored by a bull. So he went round to see Mrs Morris, to find out what had happened. She said- 'er bunted un and 'er bunted un right from 'er thigh to 'er feet'.

"It is extraordinary to discover how far money went in those days. My father's stipend at West Felton was £600 per year and he employed a governess, three indoor servants, a gardener and a gardener's boy, and at the same time he paid for two sons at university and one at prep school.

"Of course there was no bathroom in the rectory and we bathed in the bedrooms. I can remember how nice it was to have mine in front of the fire in my mother's bedroom. The ladies had a W.C. known as 'Halfway', because it was between the ground floor and the landing, but the men had to walk about 50 yards to theirs which was a brick building in a shrubbery - not a W.C. but a pit which the wretched gardener and his boy cleaned out about twice a year! One weekend, my father exchanged duties with a Welshman. When the servant came in with drinks late in the evening, my mother asked this Curate

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Jones whether he liked his bath in the morning or evening. He replied 'Thank you, Mrs Law, but I never take a bath'.

"My great friend and companion was the gardener, William Collins. He was the son of a gamekeeper and he taught me to shoot, first with a Daisy airgun and later with a large air rifle, a Steven .22 repeater and a .410 shotgun which I was given for Christmas 1908 when I was seven. My brothers were away at school or university most of the time, so I was like an only son and had to make my own amusements, climbing, building forts and so on. At the bottom of the garden, there was the Sunday School, where cookery lessons were given, so I was able to use the stove to cook the sparrows and other things I shot.

"The only gentry in the parish were the Congreves at the Grange, and there were usually sons and daughters with their wives or husbands and children staying with old Mrs Congreve. I remember being tipped 5/- by Gen. Sir William Congreve V.C. - most exciting! Mrs Congreve used to tricycle to the daily 8 o'clock service and was a hard critic of anything my father did. We had a white West Highland bitch - 'Hatso' - who was devoted to him and at these services she sometimes sat in the choir stall in front of my father. Mrs Congreve strongly objected to this, especially when my father would stroke her as he was saying the prayers.

"Staying at The Grange with her mother, often for long periods because her

father was in the army and frequently stationed abroad, was a granddaughter, Diana King. She was two or three years older than me and a completely fearless climber. The rooms on the first and second floors of the Rectory had bow windows, the roofs of which were outside the day-nursery window. One day, Diana who must have been about ten, got out of this window and walked round the gutter of this roof, to the horror of my mother who looked up and saw her from the garden below where she was working. To skip a few years, Diana came to stay with us in Lincolnshire after the First Great War. My mother was out when she arrived and when she came home she asked the elderly maid where Miss Diana was? The shocked maid replied - 'Miss Diana has taken off her 'stays', mum. and is climbing trees with Mr. Paddie'

"Another great character was Joe, a fox-terrier. For instance, my mother refused to let him come to a Mothers Union service one day, Joe considered this most unfair so he broke into the duck-pen, killed six ducks and laid them out at intervals up to the church porch.

"Many years later, after the Second World War, I called in on the incumbent. As I was saying goodbye at the front door which is opposite the church, I asked him if he had ever noticed that the weather-cock on it was not upright. He had not, and I was able to tell him that it was because my brothers and I used to shoot at it out of

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by a well-known blacksmith Jack Pearce, who, as I remember, had his workshop at the beginning of Morda Road. (I'm sure he is related to Jim Pearce of Lane End, British Legion and Pradoc Church).

"The Tabernacle was originally placed in an aumbry on the north side of the Sanctuary (You can see where the stone was cut out and later replaced). At the Consistory Court - in keeping with current practice - it was ordered that the Tabernacle should be removed from the aumbry and placed on the High Altar. This was done and it was in due time transferred to the new Altar.

"I am sure you know that the Madonna in the Lady Chapel was given after the 1939-45 War, I think, by Dr. Burroughs who lived in Chirk but came regularly to St Michael's.

"The Crucifix and candlesticks on the Altar in the Lady Chapel were given to St. Michael's by Mr William Knight of Wellingborough who also made the extra two candlesticks for the High Altar to make up the six. He was a friend of Mr. Brocklehurst, manager of the Labour Exchange in Oswestry and a faithful server at St. Michael's..... When he gave the crucifix and candle-

A young clergyman, fresh out of training, thought it would help him better understand the harsh realities his future congregations faced if he first took a job as a policeman for several months. He passed the physical examination; then came the oral exam to test his ability to act quickly and wisely in an emergency. Among other questions he was asked, "What would you do to disperse a frenzied crowd?"

He thought for a moment and then said, "I would pass an offering plate." He got the job.

sticks, Mr. Knight stipulated that if ever the Catholic Teaching was abandoned at West Felton, these should be returned to him at his Wellingborough workshops or presumably to his successors. I wonder if there is a note to this effect in the records?

Walter Blurton worked as a full-time stonemason on Major Threlfall's Estate at Ruyton XI Towns. Ladyhill Farm was in his wife's name."

**A faculty is a permissive right to undertake works to a church building or its contents. It is the duty of the minister and churchwardens to obtain a faculty before carrying out any alterations subject to the de minimis list provided by each diocese. The parish must pay a fee for a faculty.*

After Rector Gillman came **Rev K C MILLINGTON 1956-1974** and his family. We are privileged to hear his story straight from the notes of Ned, his son, who still attends St Michaels Church from time to time, though he no longer lives in the village. You will remember Ned's essay on West Felton education referred to last month. The story of his introduction to rural life in the old rectory at West Felton will have to wait until next month.

To be continued ...

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the nursery window with rifles.

"In 1914 we left West Felton and my father was given the parish at Fleet in Lincolnshire in the flattest part just south of the Wash. War was declared on the 14th August that year and in 1916 my father went to France as a chaplain and won the Military Cross (at the age of 56) - for most of the time he was with the Green Howards and the King's Liverpool Regiment."

Reverend FRANK TAYLOR, MA served West Felton 1914-28.

Frank was born in 1867, educated at Sedberg and St John's, Cambridge. He was Vicar of Hamstead, Birmingham, then Vicar of Fleet, Holbeach, finally, in 1914 at the start of WW1, instituted as Rector of West Felton where he died unmarried in 1928 and is buried in St Michael's churchyard.

In a letter written 100 years later, in March 2014, his niece writes: "I have been trying to remember anything my mother told me of Uncle Frank Taylor. He was my mother's uncle. She used to visit with her parents and must have made an impression on him for him to leave her St. Winifred's in his will. (see p33)

"He acquired St. Winifred's Well to help a local farmer who was in trouble over a mortgage. He used to take his garden-er there and sit in a chair working on his sermon in the garden where now is lawn but then were brick paths and beds, while the gardener tidied up. He

particularly liked Shirley poppies and had them sown there.

"He bought a big house in West Felton, The Grange, goodness knows why, and left it to his two brothers, thereby causing something of a rift between them.

"He used to play chess with an old friend, a scholar and local historian whose name I don't remember at the moment; he lived diagonally opposite the Post Office across the cross roads I think. (Possibly William Dovaston? Ed.)

"Frank also purchased a house, half a black and white house, on the right going towards Shrewsbury from the P.O. (Plough Cottages, see p35) for his housekeeper to live in after his death. He used to drive about his parish in a pony trap.

"I can think of nothing else I have been told about him, nothing of local interest but it does give some picture of the man, modest and kind I think."
Margaret Phythian-Adams.

After Rev Taylor came Rev R.G.T. GILLMAN 1928-1956.

The incumbency of the Reverend R.G.T. Gillman was a stormy period in the history of St Michael's (he was appointed by the Patron, the Reverend Richard Haselhurst, who was the son and grandson of two previous Rectors of that name). Father Gillman made changes to the Services, and to the church furnishings, which divided the people, and reverberated even beyond

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the village.

The following information was supplied by Mrs Doreen Burd, daughter of Father Gillman.

"It is sad that nobody is still alive in West Felton who remembers the history of the stone High Altar in St. Michael's. When my fifteen year old brother died on 26th April 1929, my father went to the quarry at Elbridge to buy the necessary stone with Walter Blurton of Ladyhill, who chose and later cut out the stone for the Altar. I may be wrong, but I think the Altar may have been designed by a Chichester friend of my parents, MacDonald Gill, who was an architect and brother of Eric Gill. MacDonald certainly did the lettering (on tracing paper which I clearly remember) which Walter Blurton carved on the north end of the Altar, in memory of my brother.

"All the stone was taken by wagons to one of the stables at the Rectory and that is where Walter Blurton cut and fashioned it. He was a very skilled stonemason, trained by a famous mason who had the care of Lichfield Cathedral.

"By the time Walter had finished all the base blocks and the massive Altar Top, the Consistory Court had run its course and there was no hope of obtaining a faculty* for a stone altar. This, therefore, stayed in the stable (the one in the right hand top corner, from the road nearest to the old coach houses and tack room), carefully protected in a

lot of straw for many years, until well after the Second World War.

"I am sure the registers will show the occasion of the very moving dedications when Bishop Hodgson of Shrewsbury was presented with the Altar-dedication by Walter Blurton, who was by then Rector's Warden. Walter had not slept for nights on end while he planned how to get the altar from the stable to the sanctuary of the church. No engineering aids in those days! He borrowed a milk-churn trolley from David Evans at Manor Farm and got six strong men to help to lift the base stones on to it, one by one and haul it across the cobbles of the stable yard, along the Woolston Road, up the church path and into Church. Metal tubes were used as rollers to get up the chancel and sanctuary steps and each block placed in its precise position. Finally the Altar Slab was taken in the same way and gently levered and lowered on to the base, central to a thousandth of an inch.

"Knowing what an effort this had been, the packed congregation were almost in tears with Walter and his wife, Eleanor, as he presented the Altar to the Bishop. After the service, the Bishop and Walter realised that they had played football together in Lichfield when they were boys. I think all this was in 1949-50.

"Walter of course made the base on which the Tabernacle was placed. The Tabernacle itself was made in Oswestry

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